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Docket No.: 1553-018



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of :  
Inventor(s): Takayoshi HIGASHINO et al. : Confirmation No. 7371  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/083,414 : Group Art Unit: 3712  
Filed: February 27, 2002 : Examiner: WILLIAMS, JAMILA O  
For: BINDER

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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FEB 0 6 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

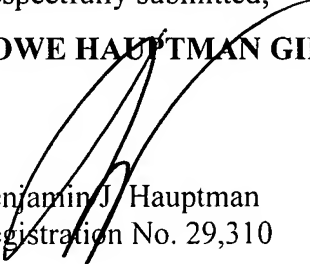
**CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH**

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent

office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement (37 CFR 1.97 (e)(1)). A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,

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